

## 2.5 Grace and Faith Demand Obedience

36. Grace & Obedience = Profit

These Are The Words Studying through the Book of Deuteronomy

# Study 4 Grace Demands Obedience

Wednesday Night Bible Studies  
7:00 PM at:

**Rock Hill Baptist Church**  
**605 Rock Hill Road**  
**Lexington, TN 38351**

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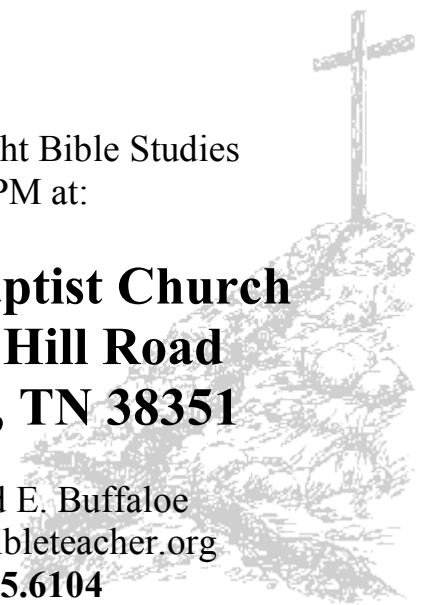
**Deuteronomy 2:24-29 (KJV)**  
**"Rise ye up<sup>1</sup>, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him**

**in battle. {25} This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee. {26} And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, {27} Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. {28} Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet; {29} (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us."**

God begins this section of narrative by telling Israel:

**"... Rise ye up<sup>1</sup>, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land ..."**

<sup>1</sup> quwm {pronounced koom}, Qal Imperative, raise up and become powerful, stand!



"... **Rise ye up**<sup>2</sup>, take your journey<sup>3</sup>

With these first three words, **Rise ye up**<sup>1</sup>, the Lord sets the tone for the rest of this section. What these words mean is - if we were to be detailed in analyzing them - is:

**Get up, and act like God's people!**  
**Stand like the recipients of Grace!**  
**Move forward, like those who are Blood Bought.**  
**Behave like children of the King!**  
**Stand, I tell you, and go,**  
**For you are Mine, not scattered herds;**  
**But sheep whose Shepherd is the Most High God!**

The *French Foreign Legion*, one of the most celebrated and deadly military forces this world has ever known, often had those who were of poor upbringing, desperate men, and those who had lost all they owned join their ranks. The Legion taught its men to fight for honor - not for the honor of France per se', but *for the honor of the unit*. The regular Legionnaire was not honorable, but became honorable when attached to his unit. He was not brave, nor noble, but became both brave and noble when attached to his unit. The French Foreign Legion had the following motto:

**If I falter, push me on.**  
**If I stumble, pick me up.**  
**If I retreat, shoot me.**

What a motto! In a similar way God tells Israel **QUWM**, **Get up! Stand up! Be like Mine, and now go!**

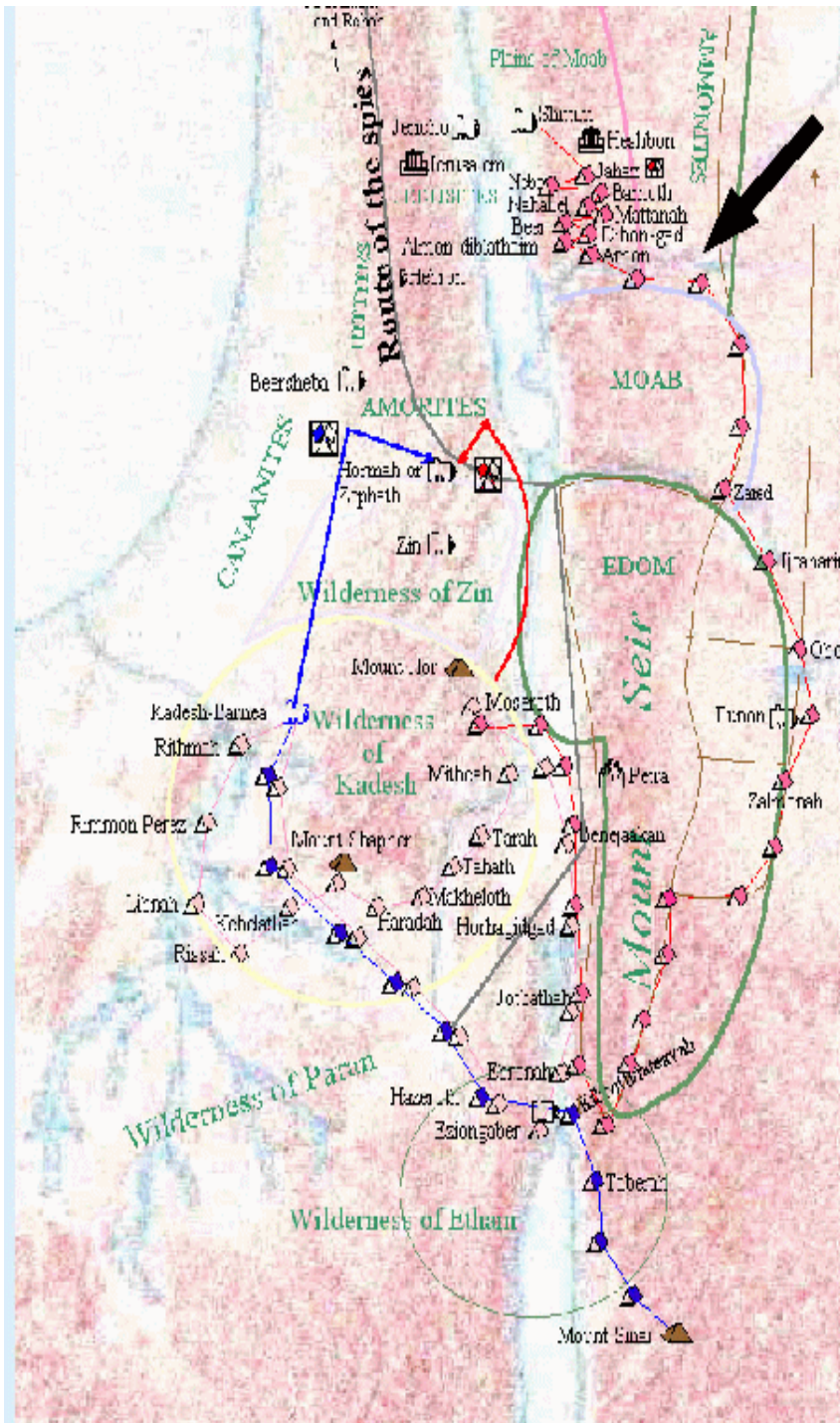
God tells Israel, **now march! Go where I command**. He emphasizes that He is leading the people, and that they are to walk where He says walk. The path that Israel will now take is not an easy path, but it is a *deliberate* path, an obstacle course over the river Arnon<sup>4</sup> - the *happy* river. The river Arnon is a swift running river that borders the holdings of the Amorites. *Easton's Bible Dictionary* states:

1. God tells Israel, **now march! Go where I command**. He emphasizes that He is leading the people, and that they are to walk where He says walk. The path that Israel will now take is not an easy path, but it is a \_\_\_\_\_ path, an obstacle course over the river Arnon<sup>5</sup> - the \_\_\_\_\_ river!

**This river (referred to twenty-four times in the Bible) rises in the mountains of Gilead, and after a circuitous course of about 80 miles through a deep ravine it falls into the Dead Sea nearly opposite Engedi. The stream is almost dry in summer. It is now called el-Mujeb. The territory of the Amorites extended from the Arnon to the Jabbok.**

Israel is crossing a river called *happy* or *sunlight* to engage an enemy called *The Amorites*. The Amorites, *Easton's* states, were

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- 2 quwm {pronounced koom}, Qal Imperative, raise up and become powerful, stand!  
3 naca' {pronounced naw-sah'}, Qal Imperative, march! Set forth! Go where I command!  
4 name means *rejoicing* or *sunlight*  
5 name means *rejoicing* or *sunlight*



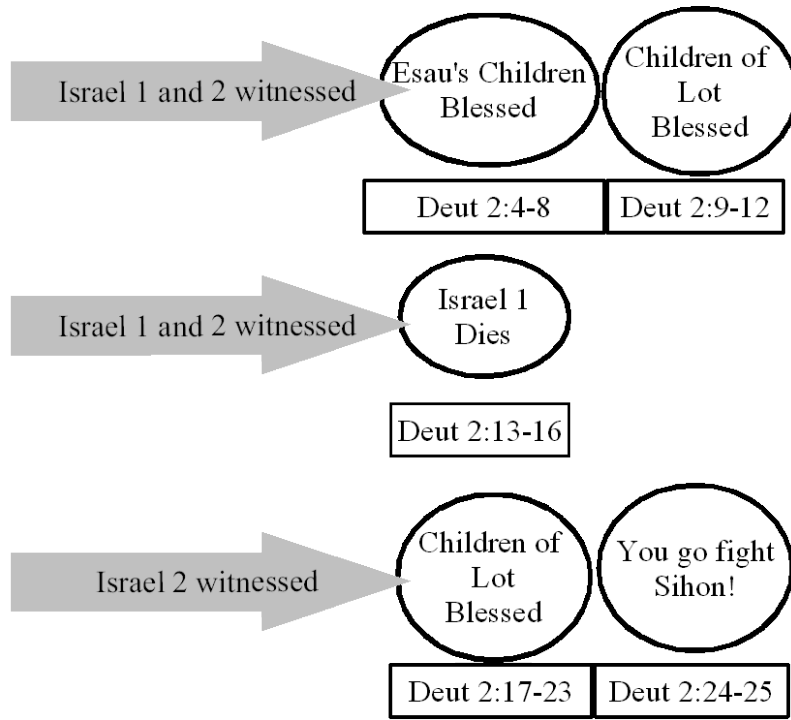
**Highlanders, or hillmen, the name given to the descendants of one of the sons of Canaan (Gen 14:7), called Amurra or Amurri in the Assyrian and Egyptian inscriptions.**

This particular part of peoples of the Amorites were led by Sihon, the King of Heshbon. His name means *striking down*. Sihon was the fierce king of the kingdom of Heshbon, a warrior king who was seldom defeated in battle. Here we see the method of God's direction of His people. As Israel went where God sent them<sup>6</sup>, He told both the *first and second* generation of Israel to pass through the land of Esau (remember the *hairy mountain*, Mount Seir?). The children of Esau, *a nation unchosen by God*, took this mountain because God in His Grace gave it to them. The first and second generations next traveled through *the land of the Moabites*, a land given unto the children of Lot. If you remember, Lot was the nephew of Abraham, though God only promised blessing to Abraham (see related study on the Abrahamic Covenant, this site<sup>7</sup>). So again we see the lesson: **Lot, the leader of the *unchosen nation* took possession of the land of Moab because of the *Grace of God*.** Israel 1 & 2<sup>8</sup> witnessed two areas taken from *two sets of giants* by relatives of theirs that were not *chosen* as Israel is God's Chosen. These two sets of relatives, the children of Esau and the children of Lot, were blessed because they **received the *Grace of God*.** Israel 1, on the other hand, was *not blessed* because they refused to step out on faith

6 map on previous page from [http://www.geocities.com/biblemaps/map\\_2.html](http://www.geocities.com/biblemaps/map_2.html). Arrow added by Pastor David, bibleteacher.org

7 [http://bibleteacher.org/pdf\\_sermons/dispbk6.pdf](http://bibleteacher.org/pdf_sermons/dispbk6.pdf)

8 I use the phrases "Israel 1" and "Israel 2" to denote the *first generation* of Israel that died in the wilderness, and the second generation of Israel that entered God's Promised Land.



and receive the Grace of God. Next we see that the Children of Israel, God's Chosen people, people who were *promised Grace*, die unnecessarily in the

2. Lot, the leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ nation took possession of the land of Moab because of the *Grace of God*. Israel 1 & 2<sup>9</sup> witnessed two areas taken from two sets of \_\_\_\_\_ by relatives of theirs that were not *chosen* as Israel is God's Chosen. These two sets of relatives, the children of Esau and the children of Lot, were blessed because they *received the* \_\_\_\_\_.

wilderness over a period of forty years. How terrible this

<sup>9</sup> I use the phrases "Israel 1" and "Israel 2" to denote the *first generation* of Israel that died in the wilderness, and the second generation of Israel that entered God's Promised Land.

had to be for Israel 2 to see their parents, Israel 1, die as they wandered. Now God commands Israel 2 to *march forward* through one more land. Israel steps out and marches through *another land* that was previously owned by a *nation of giants* called **Zamzummims**<sup>10</sup> (**Deuteronomy 2:20**). This land was, again, the possession of *the children of Lot*, relatives to Israel 2, and a land possessed because the *unchosen* accepted the Grace of God. God led Israel 2 through this final land before they were to meet Sihon. What was the point? God's point was:

**Listen Israel! I blessed the children of Esau. I blessed the children of Lot. These people were not my Chosen. But you, you are my Chosen people. Will I not bless you? Will I not cause you to succeed against your giants, just as I blessed the unchosen, if only you trust Me?**

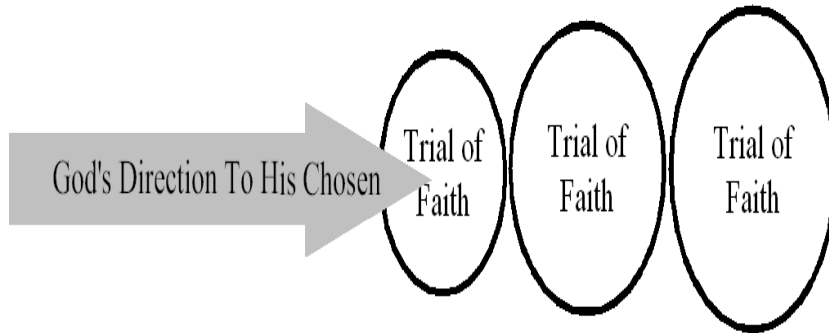
God now sends Israel on a *deliberate obstacle course* to increase their faith in Him. Israel must pass through this land, through this giant, and defeat this giant by faith

3. God now sends Israel on a \_\_\_\_\_ to increase their faith in Him. Israel must pass through this land, through this giant, and defeat this giant by faith before they will be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

<sup>10</sup> Easton's: A race of giants; "a people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims" (Deu\_2:20, Deu\_2:21). They were overcome by the Ammonites, "who called them Zamzummims." They belonged to the Rephaim, and inhabited the country afterwards occupied by the Ammonites. It has been conjectured that they might be Ham-zuzims, i.e., Zuzims dwelling in Ham, a place apparently to the south of Ashteroth (Gen\_14:5), the ancient Rabbath-ammon.

before they will be allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Herein we see a Biblical principle - in fact, a multitude of Biblical principles that God teaches us Whom He has loved and continues to love. God takes His People



those who have accepted Him by faith - through a series of trials to *strengthen* and bless them. We have a tendency to *avoid trials* and to want to remain in *the comfort zone*. But no one or no thing ever grows without trial. So God, Who dearly loves His people, the people Whom He has purchased through His own Blood:

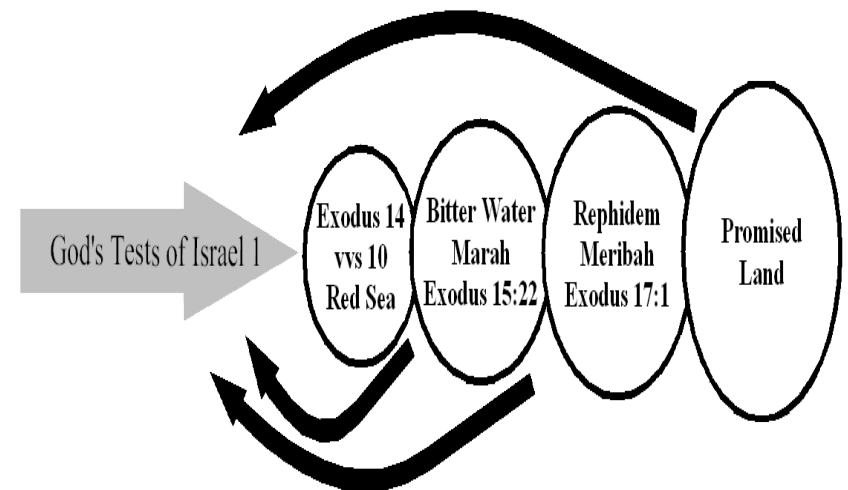
**Hebrews 9:12 (KJV)** "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

**Hebrews 13:12 (KJV)** "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."

**Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV)** "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his

own blood, {6} And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

This same God and Savior Whom we call both Friend and Father sends trials to His own in order to strengthen us. Trials come first small, then greater and greater, strengthening our faith by showing us God's faithfulness as we enter and then come out of the trial. We cannot



*receive the blessings of God* in this life until we decide to *trust and obey* God's direction for our lives. **Israel<sup>1</sup>** was given every blessing from God. They followed God from Egypt, and were *taken through various tests of faith*, but failed every test. Because they failed every test they *never learned the lessons* that God wanted to show

4. Trials come first small, then \_\_\_\_\_, strengthening our faith by showing us God's faithfulness as we enter and then come out of the trial.

them. They were *ill equipped* to enter the Promised Land because they did not learn from their mistakes. If you as God's Chosen will not learn as the Father teaches you, then you will never *possess* that which God has *promised*.

It was a sad thing that Israel<sup>1</sup> died in the wilderness, but sadder still was the truth that God *loved* these people and had *promised* these people the land - all they had to do was go get it!

## 2.6 The Doctrine of Blessing

1 God loves His people with an undying and infinite love. Though *God so loves the world that He gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16)*, He loves His believers, His Church, His *ekklesia*<sup>11</sup>, with a special love reserved *for family*:

**1 John 3:1-3 (KJV)** "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. {2} Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

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<sup>11</sup> the word "church" in the Greek is the word *ekkesia*, which means *called out ones*. God called His Church out of this world and into His Family - and thus we enjoy special blessings of love as His own Children.

2 Because we are of the *family of God* the believer is to return love to God and *be obedient* to Him in all things.

**Romans 6:12 (KJV)** "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

**2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (KJV)** "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. {15} Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother."

**John 14:15 (KJV)** "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

**John 14:23 (KJV)** "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

3 The Apostle referred to the obedience of the believer saved by faith with the terms *slave*<sup>12</sup> *of Christ* and *prisoner of God*. The Apostle emphasized that the person who was the *slave in this life* is made free in God's eyes once he accepted Christ as Savior. Further, the free-man in this life who accepted Christ as Savior then became a *slave to Christ*, for we are indeed *bought with a price to serve Him*:

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<sup>12</sup> *doulos*, slave, usually used of the *bondslave* or person who sold themselves into voluntary slavery.

5. The Apostle emphasized that the person who was the *slave in this life* is made free in God's eyes once he accepted Christ as Savior. Further, the free-man in this life who accepted Christ as Savior then became a *slave to Christ*, for we are indeed *bought with a price* to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

**1 Corinthians 7:22-23 (KJV)** "For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. {23} Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

**1 Corinthians 6:20 (KJV)** "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

We are therefore commanded to *serve God first* and be obedient to *God first* if we expect to receive the blessings of God, the blessings of the Promised Land. We are God's *prisoners*<sup>13</sup>,

**Ephesians 3:1 (KJV)** "For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,"

**Ephesians 4:1 (KJV)** "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"

**2 Timothy 1:8-10 (KJV)** "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the

<sup>13</sup> *desmios*, prisoner, one in bonds, held as captive

**gospel according to the power of God; {9} Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, {10} But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"**

**Philemon 1:1 (KJV)** "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,"

not prisoners of the world, but *prisoners of God*. God is in control, not man, and just as prisoners are under the control of the state, we who are His should recognize ourselves as *prisoners of Love*, chained to His will in our lives.

**4** God alone has the ability to promote or demote people in this life:

**Psalms 75:6-7 (KJV)** "For promotion<sup>14</sup> cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. {7} But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another."

Just as God promoted the *children of Esau* and the *children of Lot*, He would promote *Israel*<sup>2</sup> if that nation would be obedient to His direction. In the same way,

<sup>14</sup> Hiphil Infinitive ruwm {pronounced room}, to raise, lift, lift up, take up, set up, erect, exalt, set on high

God's New Testament believers - the Christian and the Church - will be blessed by God if we are obedient to His leading. If you expect to be *promoted*, you had better heed the *Promotion Authority*, Jesus Christ our Lord!

5 Until you mature as a Christian (New Testament) and as a believer (Old and New Testaments), you have *no capacity to enter God's Promised Land*. Israel<sup>1</sup> could not inherit the land that was promised to Abraham because Israel<sup>1</sup> continued to reject God's leading. Israel<sup>2</sup> would only enter and take the Promised Land when Israel<sup>2</sup> went through God's testing - and in faith *stepped out believing God for the blessing*. Before Israel<sup>2</sup> went into the land God told them:

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (KJV)** "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: {20} That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

God did not need Israel<sup>2</sup> to be strong in themselves, but wanted that nation to be *strong in obeying He who saved them*. In the same way God does not expect us to be

6. Israel<sup>1</sup> could not inherit the land that was promised to Abraham because Israel<sup>1</sup> continued to reject God's leading. Israel<sup>2</sup> would only enter and take the Promised Land when Israel<sup>2</sup> went through God's testing - and in faith \_\_\_\_\_

*strong*, but to follow the example of both Israel<sup>2</sup> and the Apostle who said:

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (KJV)** "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. {8} For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. {9} And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities<sup>15</sup>, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. {10} Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

How wonderful to come to the state of Christian growth where we say

**I praise God for my inabilities, my numbness, my crippled estate - for when I am crippled, God is my Doctor and Helper!**

<sup>15</sup> astheneia {pronounced as-then'-i-ah}, want of strength, numbness, inabilities. Possibly where we get our word *anesthesia* from.

6 Yes, salvation is by faith in Christ - but blessing only comes by obedience. The disobedient Christian may expect to see Heaven when he leaves this life, but He will never see the *Promised Land* of blessing in this life.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-18 (KJV) "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. {15} See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. {16} Rejoice evermore. {17} Pray without ceasing. {18} In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."**

As believers, we go through a series of tests - giants, if you will - that God uses to strengthen us in this life. Tests are not *curses* from God, but *blessings* designed to strengthen us so that we, in faith, can *possess the land*.

**James 1:2-4 (KJV) "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; {3} Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. {4} But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."**

7. As believers, we go through a series of tests - giants, if you will - that God uses to strengthen us in this life. Tests are not \_\_\_\_\_ from God, but \_\_\_\_\_ designed to strengthen us so that we, in faith, can *possess the land*.

7 It is a sad truth that many believers, just like Israel did, refuse to heed God's direction in their lives. They buck and pull against every test, murmuring, and constantly reject the *disciplines of the Christian way of life*. When our faith is tested - tried - we are to praise God. When confronted by giants we are to praise Him and, in faith, step where He says step. We march into Zion believing that He Who saved our souls is also amply able to bless us in this life.

**1 Peter 1:6-9 (KJV) "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: {7} That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: {8} Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: {9} Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."**

Just as God promised to bless Israel<sup>2</sup> if she believed, God promises today's believer that He will bless us if we step forward on faith.

**Isaiah 43:2-3 (KJV) "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. {3} For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I**

gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee."

I pray that God has touched your heart, drawing it toward obedience in this text!

## 2.7 God's Faithfulness and Israel<sup>2</sup>'s Obedience



Deuteronomy 2:30-35 (KJV) "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day. {31} And the LORD said unto me,

Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. {32} Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. {33} And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. {34} And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed<sup>14</sup> the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: {35} Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took."

Israel<sup>2</sup> went where God told them to go, and because of that the Lord did *exactly* what He said He was going to do. Israel

utterly destroyed<sup>16</sup> the men, and the women, and the

<sup>16</sup> Hiphil Imperfect charam {pronounced khaw-ram'}, to exterminate, wipe out, destroy without leaving a trace

little ones, of every city, we left none to remain

As we read these words we find ourselves somewhat disturbed by them. This account, by the way, closely parallels the account of **Numbers 21:21-32**. We find ourselves *disturbed* that Israel, on conquering Sihon and the Amorites, *exterminated* even the women and children. But even as we say this we must remember this truth, over and over again.

God knows best!

Why did Israel *utterly destroy* all of the people of that nation? One commentary states:

"The process of Sihon's fall was much the same as that of the fall of . . . the Pharaoh of the Exodus. Each was approached with a request to favor the Israelites (vv. 26-29), which he refused, because 'the Lord . . . hardened his spirit' (v. 30). Each made a hostile advance against Israel (v. 32) and suffered defeat, as the Lord fought for His people (vv. 31, 33ff)."<sup>17</sup>

God used the fall of Sihon's Kingdom for Israel<sup>2</sup> just as He used the fall of Egypt for Israel<sup>1</sup>. In other words, God starts over again, and begins to show this next generation that He is ultimately in control. In fact, the parallel here

8. God used the fall of \_\_\_\_\_ Kingdom for Israel<sup>2</sup> just as He used the fall of \_\_\_\_\_ for Israel<sup>1</sup>. In other words, God starts over again, and begins to show this next generation that He is ultimately in control.

<sup>17</sup>Kline, "Deuteronomy," p. 159.

is eerily similar to what happened with Pharaoh. We read in Deuteronomy 2:30:



**Deuteronomy 2:30 (KJV) "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened<sup>18</sup> his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day."**

The exact same word in the Hebrew is used for Pharaoh in:

**Exodus 7:3 (KJV) "And I will harden<sup>19</sup> Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt."**

God worked in the hearts of both leaders to *cause them to reject or to test* Israel - and then led Israel<sup>1</sup> and later Israel<sup>2</sup> to overcome these adversaries. This is disturbing to our sensibilities, but emphasizes the fact that *God is ultimately in control of all things*. It satisfied His purposes to harden both Pharaoh and Sihon, and satisfied His purposes to overcome both adversaries.

Why did God have Israel exterminate *everyone* in the case of Sihon? This is clearly a matter of *genocide* on an impressive scale. Another commentary notes:

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18 Hiphil Perfect qashah {pronounced kaw-shaw' }, to make stiff or stubborn, to harden - a complete action

19 Hiphil *Imperfect* qashah {pronounced kaw-shaw' }, to make stiff or stubborn, to harden - an incomplete action

**"Apart from the Lord's intention to provide a home and land for God's people, there are two criteria for the destruction of inhabitants of the land: (1) those who oppose God's purpose and promise to Israel—that is, Sihon and Og; and (2) those who seem to pose in a special way the problem of religious contamination and syncretism—that is, the Canaanites and Amorites."<sup>20</sup>**

**". . . the divine hardening described here [v. 30] was part of Yahweh's sovereign judgment on a morally corrupt culture."<sup>21</sup>**

Many of the ancient peoples in Canaan followed practices that were *barbaric* and horrible in their monstrosities. Many of these peoples had fallen so far away from worshiping God that they had begun to *sacrifice their own children* on blood sacrificial altars. The commentators speculate that Israel had to destroy these peoples utterly for, once a nation begins to engage itself in child sacrifice, to consider such a thing to be *acceptable practice* - when that people no longer blush at sin - then it has become like an infectious disease that needs to be eradicated. God warned a nation:

**Isaiah 5:18-21 (KJV) "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: {19} That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! {20} Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! {21} Woe unto them that are**

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20 Miller, p. 40

21 Robert B. Chisholm Jr., "Divine Hardening in the Old Testament," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 153:612 (October- December 1996):430.

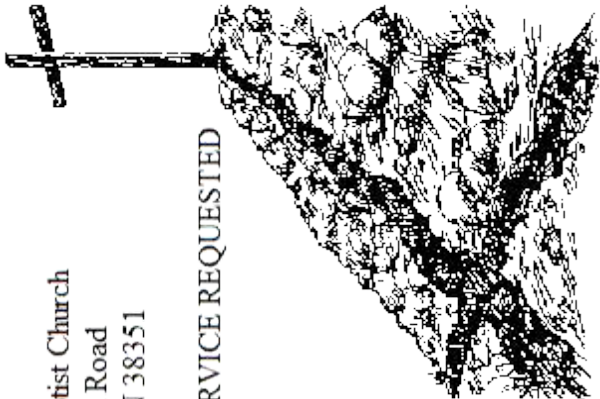
**wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"**

who departs from His leading will, in time, be destroyed by His own hand. Israel became the ax that chopped down Sihon and his people, the surgeon's scalpel that cut out the disease of immorality before it could infect the remainder of the world. Because Israel<sup>2</sup> trusted God we leave the chapter with these words:

**Deuteronomy 2:36-37 (KJV) "From Aroer, which is by the brink of the river of Arnon, and from the city that is by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the LORD our God delivered all unto us: {37} Only unto the land of the children of Ammon thou camest not, nor unto any place of the river Jabbok, nor unto the cities in the mountains, nor unto whatsoever the LORD our God forbade us."**

9. Israel became the ax that chopped down Sihon and his people, the \_\_\_\_\_ that cut out the disease of immorality before it could infect the remainder of the world.

Obedience was blessed. Israel was now on its way to the Promised Land!



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